

March 8, 1966

Cleon O. Swayzee  
The Ford Foundation  
477 Madison Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Swayzee:

It may be presumptuous of me to send you the enclosed material. Having learned of your interest in foreign areas and cultures through Professor Vernon Van Dyke here, it has seemed to me that it would not be improper to inquire whether or not we might ask for some help. This is not to initiate a new Program, nor to beg assistance because we are faltering. Our International Writing Center has been flourishing for six years on the slenderest resources, most of them privately raised by me outside the University and, indeed, the state. The University had no funds at all for this project, when the concept of the Center came to me, save a willingness to contribute parts of salaries, time released from other teaching to teach our international classes. For myself, I simply added this to my other duties, instructional and administrative.

The enclosed proposals describe what we do, what we want to do, and what areas need help. What is needed above all is help for some years, perhaps five, so that we can make plans well ahead. It takes a year to locate the writer in remote countries, secure his work (both in original and in translation), arrange his travel (usually from the Department of State or Fulbright), get his passport, visa, etc.

I have not submitted a firm budget of needs, because these could vary enormously, depending on the number of countries with which we were working, the amount of travel within the USA and outside it, and such items as creating a local office and a person to staff it. Exact sums could, however, be indicated if desired. An annual total might be \$60,000, the bulk of it to go to the international people who would come here.

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Note that the brochure enclosed has several pages about our foreign students. In a separate package I am sending MIDLAND, the anthology described in certain of the reviews which I also enclose. There are a few other items, intended to give you some sense of the background which I bring to this sort of work. This includes three years at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, with travel which took me across Europe to the usual western countries as well as Poland, Finland and Russia, and intensive travel in Asia to meet with writers, in Pakistan, India, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan. I am just back from Norway, Denmark and Ireland, and leave in two weeks for Paris, going on to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, perhaps Roumania.

If you would be so kind as to return any of these materials which you either do not find useful, or prefer not to keep, it would be much appreciated.

I am perfectly aware that time is very short, but if there was a chance of seeing you on brief visit in New York about March 24 I would be grateful to come any time you were free. If I were not going to be away, I would beg you to visit here and see our work in person, but perhaps that can be done this coming autumn. I want you to see the film described in the enclosed leaflet, to observe our work in translation, meet with our staff and students, and talk about the future.

If the whole idea seems absurd, please simply return the materials, although I'd be pleased for you to keep MIDLAND and the brochure for your library.

Sincerely,

Paul Engle  
Director